

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARLOW.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

"The Old House",

West Street,

Marlow.

16th January, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the

MARLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

SECTION A. Statistics.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Area (in Acres) | 1664. |
| Estimated Population. | 6196. |
| Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1944. | 1685. |
| Rateable Value. | £40,419. |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £154. 17s |

The statistical returns are calculated on a population of 6196, a figure supplied by the Registrar General.

| | Total. | M. | F. | |
|---------------|--------|-----|-----|---|
| Live Births | 123 | 66. | 55. | Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population = 22.1 |
| Legitimate. | 123 | 66. | 55. | |
| Illegitimate. | 14 | 9. | 5. | |
| Stillbirths. | 6 | 1. | 5. | Birth rate for England and Wales = 17.6 per 1000. |
| Deaths. | 79 | 30. | 49. | Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population = 12.7 |
| | | | | Death rate for England and Wales = 11.6 per 1000. |

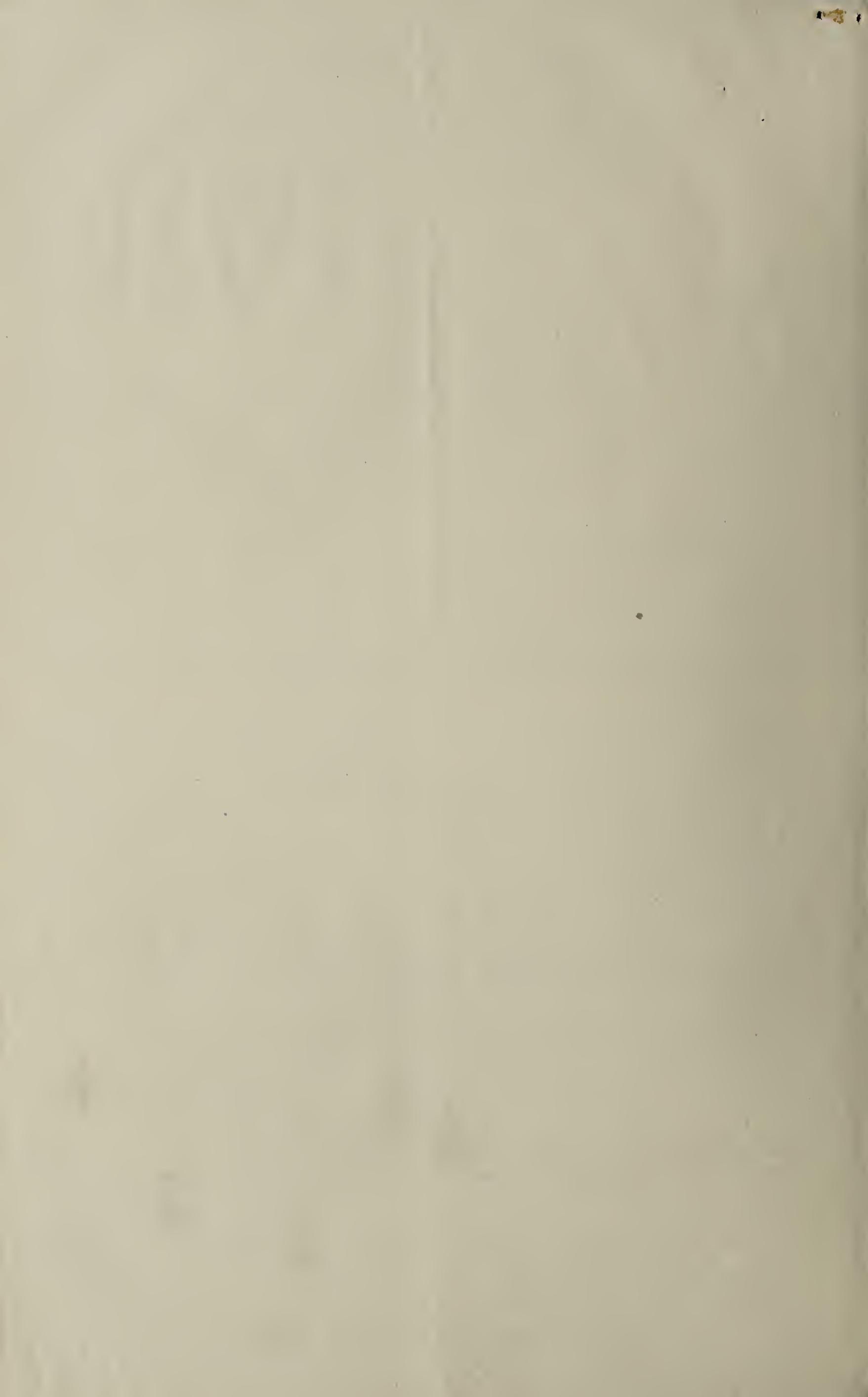
Population is counted as Resident Population differing from census figures.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):-

| | | Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births |
|--------------------------------|---------|---|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis. | Deaths. | Nil |
| No. 30 Other puerperal causes. | | Nil |
| | Total | Nil |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:- 4

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 1 |
| " " Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages) | 1 |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age). | Nil. |



SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Urban District.

Public Health Staff.

The above consists of one part time Medical Officer of Health, and one Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor to the Council and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board and the Diploma of the Chartered Surveyors Institution and the Testamur of the Institution of Municipal & County Engineers. He was appointed in June, 1938.

Laboratory Facilities.

Diphtheria swabs are examined for the Council at the Camberwell Research Laboratory.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to practitioners and obtained from Mr. Bristow, Chemist, Oxford Road, High Wycombe.

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is maintained for accidents and transport by the Local Corps of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

A similar ambulance is kept at Booker Isolation Hospital for the transport of fever cases. These services are satisfactory.

Nursing in the Home.

The Marlow Nursing Association provides 2 nurses who attend the sick poor, except in infectious cases, at their own homes. They do the following up work in connection with the Schools and act as midwives for the District. The Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions, patients subscriptions, and grants from the County Council, and is not subsidised by the Urban District Council.

Treatment Centres & Clinics.

There has been no change in the provision of treatment centres since the last report.

Hospitals.

The Public Hospitals are the Metropolitan Hospitals, the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and the King Edward VII Hospitals, Windsor. In addition there is the Marlow Cottage Hospital which is supported by voluntary contributions.

SECTION C. Water.

During the year small extensions of the public water supply have taken place. The water is supplied by the Marlow Water Company's deep wells.

Drainage & Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily.

Rivers & Streams.

No action has been taken during the past year to check the pollution of rivers or streams in the area. The Thames Conservancy frequently check the effluent from the Council's Sewerage Disposal Works.

Public Cleansing.

A satisfactory standard of Refuse Collection & Disposal, and Cesspool Cleaning has been maintained.

Sanitary Administration of the Area.

1. List of adoptive acts in force in the district.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890 Part 111.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 81 to 86 of Part 7 and Part 8 (Home Secretary).

Part 2. (in so far as not repealed by the P.H.A. 1936).

Sections 53 and 54 in Part iv.

Sections 92 and 95, comprised in Part X.

Public Health Act, 1925, (Whole sections except Section 20 (Repealed and 21 contained in Part 2)).

Byelaws.

New Street and Buildings.

Common Lodging Houses.

Slaughter Houses.

Cleansing of Footways.

Cleansing of Privies.

Prevention of Nuisance from Snow, Keeping of Animals etc.,

Removal of House Refuse.

With respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for Human Habitation.

Public Conveniences.

Pleasure Grounds.

Petrol Filling Stations (Byelaws made by the County Council but enforceable by the Local Authority).

Statement of Works of Sanitary Inspector under Art. 27 of Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

| Acts and Sections. | Informal Notices Served. | Complied with | Not complied with | In Progress. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| P.H.A. 1936. Sec. 58. | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Sec. 75. | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| Sec. 92. | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Housing Act, 1935. Sec. 9. | 4 | 4 | - | - |
| Total. | 8 | 8 | - | - |

No statutory notices were required to be served during the year.

Food Preparing Places.

Necessary inspections have been carried out from time to time.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the area and a minimum number of licences have been issued by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Facilities.

The Council maintain a Bathing Place on the River Thames which has recently been deepened. Samples of water, taken from

time to time have proved satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year five dwelling houses were infested with bed bugs, and were disinfested by the application of Zaldecide, with the exception of one house which required the use of gas. This work is carried out by the Council's employees.

SECTION D. Housing.

No new houses were erected during the year.

(1). Unfit Dwelling-houses.

- (1). The total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts 5.
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be not fit for human habitation Nil.
- (3). Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 Nil.
- (4). Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil.

(11). Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses made fit in consequence of informal action being taken by the Local Authority or their officers 5.

(111). Action taken under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices have been served requiring repairs Nil.
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit by owner. Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1). Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were found and notices served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied Nil.
 - (a) By owners. Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default. Nil.

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made Nil.
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. Nil.
- (2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined but tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

(1v). Housing Act, 1936, Part (4). - Overcrowding.

During the period of the war the Urban District has been heavily overcrowded at times and no correct statistics are now available of the number of houses overcrowded.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). Milk Supply. - The necessary inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out throughout the year.

(b). Meat and Other Foods - During the Year, the inspection of carcases has been maintained and the following amount of meat has been condemned:-

| <u>Beef.</u> | <u>Mutton.</u> | <u>Pork.</u> | <u>Livers.</u> | <u>Offal.</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 tons 16 cwt. 6 lbs. | 1 cwt. 4 lbs. | 1 cwt. 32 lbs. | 1 ton. 5 cwt. 41 lbs. | 1 ton. 7 cwt. 104 lbs. |

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious & Other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Diphtheria. | Nil. |
| Scarlet Fever. | 18. |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | Nil. |
| Pneumonia. | 1. |
| Erysipelas. | Nil. |
| Enteric Fever. | Nil. |
| Smallpox. | |

Deaths occurred from the following causes.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Measles. | - | - |
| Influenza. | - | 1. |
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System. | - | - |
| Cancer. | 8 | 8 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage. | 3 | 6 |
| Heart Disease. | 6 | 15 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases. | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia (all forms). | - | - |
| Other Respiratory Diseases. | 1 | 3 |
| Diarrhoea, under two yrs. &. | - | - |
| Acute and chronic Nephritis. | 2 | 2 |
| Gonogenital Debility and Malformation) | - | - |
| and Premature Birth. | 1 | 1 |
| Senility. | - | - |
| Violence. | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined diseases. | 6 | 7 |
| Accident. | 1 | - |
| Whooping Cough. | - | 1 |

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| | Non Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 5 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 15 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 25 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 35 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 45 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 55 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 65 | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards. | | | | | | | | |
| Totals. | Nil | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1 | Nil |

The Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections have been made of premises within the Urban District coming within the scope of this Act.

My thanks are due to Mr. Kelvin Smith, our Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for the keenness and ability with which he has carried out his duties since his appointment in June, 1938.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) F. H. P. Wills.

Medical Officer of Health.

